



Local Area Impact Assessment Groups

WORKGROUP FORMATION SCHEDULE

Cochise County - October 2005

Santa Cruz County - April 2006

Yavapai County - May 2006

Others - To be determined

CONTACT INFORMATION

Cochise County

Susan Pater, County Extension Director
spater@cals.arizona.edu

Kim McReynolds, Area Agent
kimm@cals.arizona.edu
(520) 384-3594

Mike Evans, County Emergency
Management Coordinator
(520) 432-9550

Santa Cruz County

Dean Fish, County Extension Director
dfish@cals.arizona.edu
(520) 281-2994

Yavapai County

Jeff Schalaus, County Extension Director
jschalau@cals.arizona.edu
(928) 445-6590

Arizona Cooperative Extension
cals.arizona.edu/extension

Arizona Department of Water Resources
azwater.gov
(602) 771-8533

Encourage regional coordination for drought and conservation planning

Local Area Impact Assessment Groups (LAIAGs) are county-level groups created voluntarily to coordinate drought public awareness, provide impact assessment information to local and state leaders, and initiate and implement local mitigation or response options.

Local Coordinators - County Extension Agent & County Emergency Manager

Support & Statewide Coordination - AZ Department of Water Resources

Objectives

- Identify local drought-related impacts
- Define and assess societal impacts, severity, loss and costs associated with impacts
- Identify response options
- Identify unmet needs or needs for response
- Identify and facilitate efforts to mitigate impacts focusing on preparedness and reducing drought vulnerabilities

Participation

- Local/County Governments
- Municipal/Private Water Companies
- Other Local Water Providers
- Irrigation Districts
- Tribal Governments
- Natural Resource Conservation Districts
- Arizona Game & Fish Department
- Local Non-Government Organizations
- State/Federal Agencies



Background Information

The Governor's Drought Task Force, established in March 2003, developed the *Arizona Drought Preparedness Plan* to address drought issues facing Arizonans. As a result, Local Area Impact Assessment Groups are being created across Arizona to identify drought impacts and initiate mitigation or response options at the local level. In addition, two other committees, the Monitoring Technical Committee and the Interagency Coordinating Group, are assisting with implementing the *Arizona Drought Preparedness Plan*.

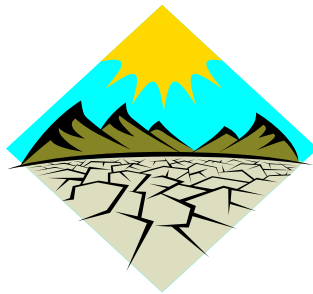
Key to the implementation of the *Arizona Drought Preparedness Plan* is the creation of three structured committees

Monitoring Technical Committee

On-going technical data gathering and information dissemination group

- Tracks changes in climate and physical conditions
- Forecasts likely future conditions
- Critical in early warning and detection
- Determines drought conditions based on monitoring data

The Monitoring Technical Committee uses local area impact assessment information, along with scientific data, to determine drought conditions in each climate division.



Local Area Impact Assessment Groups
play an important role

Interagency Coordinating Group

Provides policy guidance for the *Arizona Drought Preparedness Plan*

- Advises Governor of changes in drought conditions
- Reviews Plan based on information from Monitoring Technical Committee and Local Area Impact Assessment Groups
- Provides recommendations for improving monitoring, implementation and response

ADWR consults with both committees to determine the potential severity of drought conditions and the expected impacts. The appropriate level of response is then decided.

ADWR serves as the facilitator of the Monitoring Technical Committee and the Interagency Coordinating Group, provides staff support and web services, and assists with report development and public outreach.

